

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SSO-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8065

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INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP EAID GB

SUBJECT: PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES

REF: LIBREVILLE 1399

1. ROBERTSON AND RAZI RETURNED LATER JULY 13 FOR CALL ON AMBASSADOR WHICH PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY OBTAIN SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE HELPFUL TO ADDRESSEES IN ATTEMPTING OBTAIN REQUESTED CHECK ON BONA FIDES OF PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES.

2. ACCORDING TO ROBERTSON, PAAI IS WHOLLY OWNED BY SEVEN AMERICAN CITIZENS AND TWO EUROPEANS, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "FORMER AIR FORCE AND AIRLINE PEOPLE". HE ADDED THAT PAAI ALREADY HOLDS TITLE TO THREE-CARGO-CONFIGURED LOCKHEED ELECTRA AIRCRAFT, HAS IDENTIFIED SIX MORE FOR PURCHASE, AND
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HOPES EVENTUALLY TO ACQUIRE A FLEET OF BETWEEN 18 AND 26

ELECTRAS FOR ITS PROPOSED AIR CARGO SUBSIDIARY.

3. IN COURSE CONVERSATION, FACT EMERGED THAT BASIC IDEA OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK CENTERED ON SAHEL COUNTRIES STEMS FROM MAN IDENTIFIED BY ROBERTSON AS IMF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR YAMEOGO (VOLTAN CITIZEN). ALSO INVOLVED IS ANOTHER VOLTAN NAMED SOUMANA TRAORE, IDENTIFIED AS HEAD OF CONSULTING FIRM WHICH HAS DONE WORK FOR AID AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND RECENT RECIPIENT OF IV GRANT FOR VISIT TO US.

4. QUERIED ABOUT FINANCING FOR HIS PROJECTS, ROBERTSON REMAINED FAIRLY VAGUE AND ALLEGED THAT THIS WOULD BE NO PROBLEM. HE SAID PARTIAL OWNERSHIP OF ALL SUBSIDIARY FIRMS (INCLUDING AIR AND SEA TRANSPORT COMPANIES AND VARIOYS JOINT VENTURES IN PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER GOODS) WOULD BE HELD BY PARITICIPATING GOVERNMENTS, AND ADDED THAT BULK OF REMAINING CAPITAL WOULD COME FROM "AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC INVESTMENT BANK". LATTER BODY, HE ALLEGED, IS NOW IN PROCESS OF FORMATION WITH 56 MEMBER STATES AND INITIAL CAPITAL OF \$700 MILLION TO BE PROVIDED BOTH BY INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AND BY OPEC MEMBERS. HE INSISTED THAT USG IS AMONG COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE MADE COMMITMENTS TO NEW BANK, AND AFFIRMED THAT ITS CAPITAL WOULD SHORTLY BE RAISED ABOVE \$2 BILLION.

5. EARLIER IN CONVERSATION, ROBERTSON INDICATED GENESIS OF HIS SCHEME WAS PROPOSAL FOR AIRFREIGHT SERVICE TO CHAD, WHICH WAS EXPANDED AT YAMEOGO'S SUGGESTION TO ENCOMPASS TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL OF SAHEL. ROBERTSON SAID THAT FINANCING FOR ORIGINAL CHAD PROJECT WAS TO HAVE COME FROM ARAB DEVELOPMENT BANK, BUT OFFERED NO SPECIFICS ON AMOUNT AVAILABLE.

6. HOPE THESE ADDITIONAL SCRAPS WILL BE HELPFUL AND THAT WE CAN HAVE SOME READING ON PAAI BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS JULY 14.
STEIGMAN

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